

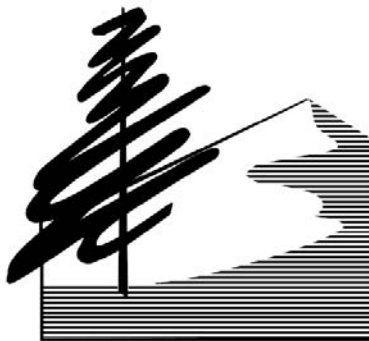
Encinas Creek
Habitat Conservation Area
(Formerly known as the North County Habitat Bank)
(S041)

Annual Work Plan
October 2008 - September 2009

Prepared for:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
California Department of Fish and Game
City of Carlsbad

Prepared by:



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I. Introduction

This annual work plan has been developed from the guidelines for goals and objectives set forth in the North County Habitat Bank Long-Term Management Plan (HMP) (Helix 2007). The HMP includes management requirements set forth by the City of Carlsbad (City), the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). CNLM holds title to the North County Habitat Bank Habitat Conservation Area (HCA or Preserve), and has changed its name to Encinas Creek Habitat Conservation Area. The Preserve is located about ½ mile east of Interstate 5 along the south side Palomar Airport Road, east of Costco and west of Hidden Valley Road.

CNLM has managed the HCA since May of 2007 at which time we received the entire endowment to fund the long-term management of the HCA. The HCA is currently being used by Westmark Development Corporation (Westmark) as a wetlands mitigation bank. Westmark is the Bank Owner and handles all credit sales and accounting. Westmark restored several acres of disturbed wetland pursuant to a restoration plan (Helix 2007b) and received regulatory signoff for final success criteria in December of 2007 (ACOE, 2007).

The purpose of this work plan is to identify the tasks and budget required to complete the management activities for the upcoming fiscal year that will begin on October 1, 2008 and end on September 30, 2009. Unless otherwise stated, all tasks will be performed by CNLM's Area Manager, Markus Spiegelberg and CNLM's Preserve Managers, Jessica Vinje and Patrick McConnell.

Summary of Tasks and Goals for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year:

- Install signs as necessary
- Monitor large and medium sized mammal use of the site using wildlife cameras
- Note all animal species observed and map locations of any sensitive species
- Remove nonnative plant species
- Establish photo-documentation stations
- Patrol and conduct site enforcement on a regular basis
- Conduct surveys for least Bell's vireo and coastal California gnatcatcher
- Report and describe data collected and management actions taken on the Preserves to the wildlife agencies
- Install and mend fencing as necessary

Appendix 1 (*Task Schedule*) identifies the approximate schedule of field work throughout the fiscal year. Appendix 2 (*Annual Budget*) provides a financial summary for both person hours and costs for the year and the location of the Preserves are included in Appendix 3.

II. Management Activities

The following sections identify and describe the activities to be performed during the upcoming fiscal year. Based upon the Property Analysis Record (PAR) developed by the CNLM to outline long-term management tasks and costs, management activities for the HCA can be broken down into seven tasks: Capital Improvements, Biological Surveys, Habitat Restoration and

Maintenance, Public Services, Reporting, Office Maintenance, and Operations. Each of these categories will be discussed below.

A. Capital improvements

CNLM posted signs along Palomar Airport Road during the last fiscal year. There is also a gate at the west end of the HCA. CNLM will maintain the signs as necessary. The gate is maintained by Vista Sewer. CNLM will notify them if it requires maintenance.

B. Biological Surveys

The HMP provides a general framework for biological monitoring activities. CNLM's primary goal in the next three years will be to monitor the use of the site by sensitive species, primarily the coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN)(*Polioptila californica californica*) and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). We will be monitoring these species each year for the next three years. We will also use wildlife cameras to document wildlife movement through the property. There are no sensitive plant species known to occur. If sensitive plant species are observed, they will be noted and mapped.

1. Least Bell's vireo, California Gnatcatcher & Avifauna Monitoring

Objectives: Document the number of LBV and monitor their breeding activity. Survey for the CAGN.

Spring 2008 will be the first year of LBV nest monitoring. One pair was observed in the summer of 2008. The goal of nest monitoring is to determine nest success and to determine if any cowbird parasitism is occurring. LBV pairs, if any, will be visited about every 7 to 10 days to monitor their breeding activity. Nest locations will be GPS'd and all pertinent nest information will be annotated in the GIS database. A minimum of two surveys will be conducted for CAGN in the spring of 2008. Each CAGN observed will be noted and mapped.

All sensitive bird species will be mapped and noted.

2. Wildlife Movement

The goals of tracking wildlife movement are to determine which species use the preserve and how frequently, and to document the use of the preserves by potential predators to the LBV and predators to those species (such as opossums) which impact LBV nests. In addition, we are interested in wildlife movement along Encinas Creek.

Wildlife cameras will be placed in strategic locations in the Preserve during the next fiscal year to obtain information about the mammals using the Preserves.

C. Habitat Maintenance and Restoration

The HCA was cleared of most zero tolerant nonnative plant species as part of the wetland creation and enhancement. CNLM observed small patches of pampas grass resprouting, but for

the most part, the site is very free on nonnative plant species. We will remove any zero tolerant nonnative plant species as we observe them. We noted patches of ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) and black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) during our surveys. These species will be treated in the spring of 2009 as will other minor nonnative plant species.

D. Public Services

Public Services tasks include the patrolling of the Preserve and the response to emergencies.

- 1. Patrols:** Patrols will be performed approximately one time per month. Routine mending of small fence breaks and replacement of signs are the main tasks. Observations of animal sightings and new human impacts will be gathered during patrols as well.
- 2. Emergency Response:** Hours have been allocated from the current budget for management to respond to emergencies on the Preserves. Such emergencies could include response to wildfires, problems reported by neighbors and trespass.
- 3. Public Outreach:** We have been informed that a Friends of the Encinas Creek has formed. We will be meeting with this organization and will work with them on activities which will benefit our preserve.

E. Reporting

Activities included within reporting requirements include the management of the Preserves' database/GIS system, the photo-documentation stations, and the production of various status reports to the USFWS, CDFG and CNLM administration.

- 1. Database/GIS Management** Data derived from routine patrols and restoration activities will be entered into and maintained in the Preserves' existing database and GIS system by CNLM. Efforts will be made to coordinate and standardize database fields and parameters with other reserves.
- 2. Photo-documentation Stations** Photo-documentation will occur at permanent stations that will be established in the spring of 2009. Digital photos will be taken and stored on electronic media for fast retrieval, and for use in the databases.
- 3. Reports**
 - a. Year-End/Agency Reports:** By the end of December 2009, a year-end report will be prepared by the preserve manager detailing the results of the year's management activities. This report will include recommendations for the continuation of various activities for the following fiscal year and will be submitted to the City of Carlsbad, USFWS and CDFG as required under permit reporting conditions.
 - b. 2008-2009 Annual Work Plan:** The work plan for this upcoming fiscal year will be formulated by the end of December 2009 and will be based upon experiences during previous year's operations. This work plan will be submitted to the City of Carlsbad, USFWS and

CDFG.

c. **Management Plan:** The current management plan will likely be updated in 2011 or 2012.

F. Office Maintenance

Preserve management will maintain offices in an organized manner to facilitate maximum efficiency. This section of the budget includes outlays for general office work, utilities, and telephones, among other items/tasks.

G. Operations

Operations include the training and professional growth of preserve management personnel, and inspection of the HCA by CNLM administration. Funds have been allocated in the current budget for both the Area Manager and the Preserve managers to attend classes or seminars during the next fiscal year. Also included within this category of activity are employee reviews.

III. Workload and Budgets

1. **Supervision and Staffing:** The Area Manager will be supervised by CNLM's Director of Conservation Science, Deborah Rogers. Tasks and hours will be coordinated by the Area Manager and approved by Ms. Rogers. The Area Manager, Markus Spiegelberg will supervise the Preserve Managers, Jessica Vinje and Patrick McConnell.
2. **Budgeting:** A budget has been prepared for this fiscal year and is included here as Appendix 2. Every effort will be made by Preserve Management to allocate time and expenses according to this estimated budget. The budget for this fiscal year is \$21,034.

IV. References

ACOE, 2007. North County Habitat Bank Success Criteria Determination. Department of the Army. December 17, 2007.

Helix, 2007. North County Habitat Bank Long-Term Management Plan. Helix Environmental Planning, Inc. December 28, 2007.

Helix, 2007b. North County Habitat Bank Final Wetland Restoration Plan. Helix Environmental Planning, Inc. April 30, 2007.

V. Appendices

Appendix 1: 2008-2009 Task Schedule

Task	October- December 2008	January-March 2009	April to June 2009	July to September 2009
Nonnative plant removal	X	X	X	X
Wildlife tracking	X	X	X	X
GIS/database and Photodocumentation			X	
Bird Surveys			X	X
Patrolling	X	X	X	X
Reports	X			X
Public outreach	X		X	

Appendix 2: Fiscal Year Budget

Budget Task Detail
NCHB_Encinas Creek
Annual Budget for Yr 2008-2009
Ongoing Expenses

09/22/2008

Task list	Specific Description	Unit	Reinvestment	Quantity	Rate	Num Yrs	Cost	Contingency	Administration	Total Cost
Biotic Surveys										
Ornithologist	Field Survey	L. Hours		40.00	33.55	1	1,342.00	0.00	322.08	1,664.08
Project Management	Manage Project	L. Hours		4.00	42.23	1	168.92	0.00	40.54	209.46
Science Director	Coordination/Overs	L. Hours		14.00	50.00	1	700.00	0.00	168.00	868.00
Sub total							2,210.92	0.00	530.62	2,741.54
Field Equipment										
Camera Digital	Wildlife camera	Item		3.00	350.00	1	1,050.00	0.00	252.00	1,302.00
Power Tools	Misc. Tools	Item		1.00	300.00	1	300.00	0.00	72.00	372.00
Vehicle	Transportation	Mile		750.00	0.99	1	742.50	0.00	178.20	920.70
Sub total							2,092.50	0.00	502.20	2,594.70
Habitat Maintenance										
Exotic Plant Control	Oversight/removal	L. Hours		30.00	33.55	1	1,006.50	0.00	241.56	1,248.06
Exotic Plant Control	Remove	C. Hours		40.00	36.00	1	1,440.00	0.00	345.60	1,785.60
Exotic Plant Control	Herbicide	Gallon		1.00	350.00	1	350.00	0.00	84.00	434.00
Exotic Plant Control	Skid rental	Item		1.00	250.00	1	250.00	0.00	60.00	310.00
Exotic Plant Control	Water costs	Item		1.00	50.00	1	50.00	0.00	12.00	62.00
Exotic Plant Control	Water Meter	Item		1.00	850.00	1	850.00	0.00	204.00	1,054.00
Sub total							3,946.50	0.00	947.16	4,893.66

NOTE: Because the values are rounded, there may be small errors.

Budget Task Detail
NCHB_Encinas Creek
Annual Budget for Yr 2008-2009
Ongoing Expenses

09/22/2008

Task list	Specific Description	Unit	Reinvestment	Quantity	Rate	Num Yrs	Cost	Contingency	Administration	Total Cost
Office Maintenance										
Nature Center	Office time	L. Hours		16.00	28.13	1	450.08	0.00	108.01	558.09
Nature Center	Office time	L. Hours		16.00	33.55	1	536.80	0.00	128.83	665.63
Nature Center	Office time	L. Hours		24.00	42.23	1	1,013.52	0.00	243.24	1,256.76
Office Rent	Rent	Item		1.00	312.48	1	312.48	0.00	74.99	387.47
Office Supplies,	Supplies	Item		1.00	162.00	1	162.00	0.00	38.88	200.88
Telephone	Telephone	Item		1.00	174.00	1	174.00	0.00	41.76	215.76
Sub total							2,648.88	0.00	635.73	3,284.61
Operations										
Audit	Audit-cost share	Item		1.00	213.00	1	213.00	0.00	51.12	264.12
Employee Training	Retreat and Conf	Item		1.00	166.00	1	166.00	0.00	39.84	205.84
Insurance	General	Item		1.00	306.93	1	306.93	0.00	73.66	380.59
Project Accounting	Vac/hol/retreat/conf	L. Hours		15.00	28.13	1	421.95	0.00	101.26	523.21
Project Accounting	Vac/hol/retreat/conf	L. Hours		15.00	33.55	1	503.25	0.00	120.78	624.03
Project Accounting	Vac/hol/retreat/conf	L. Hours		15.00	42.23	1	633.45	0.00	152.02	785.47
Sub total							2,244.58	0.00	538.69	2,783.27
Public Services										
Access Control	Enforcement	L. Hours		4.00	42.23	1	168.92	0.00	40.54	209.46
Access Control	Enforcement	L. Hours		20.00	33.55	1	671.00	0.00	161.04	832.04
Community Outreach	Meetings	L. Hours		4.00	33.55	1	134.20	0.00	32.20	166.40
Sub total							974.12	0.00	233.78	1,207.90

NOTE: Because the values are rounded, there may be small errors.

Budget Task Detail
NCHB_Encinas Creek
Annual Budget for Yr 2008-2009
Ongoing Expenses

09/22/2008

Task list	Specific Description	Unit	Reinvestment	Quantity	Rate	Num Yrs	Cost	Contingency	Administration	Total Cost
Reporting										
Agency Report	Annual Report	L. Hours		16.00	33.55	1	536.80	0.00	128.83	665.63
Agency Report	Annual Report	L. Hours		16.00	42.23	1	675.68	0.00	162.16	837.84
Annual Work Plan	Plan And Par	L. Hours		12.00	42.23	1	506.76	0.00	121.62	628.38
GIS/CAD Management	Cadre	C. Hours		8.00	65.00	1	520.00	0.00	124.80	644.80
GIS/CAD Management	Data Management	L. Hours		8.00	33.55	1	268.40	0.00	64.41	332.81
GIS/CAD Management	Data Management	L. Hours		8.00	42.23	1	337.84	0.00	81.08	418.92
Sub total							2,845.48	0.00	682.91	3,528.39
Sub Total for All Categories							16,962.98	0.00	4,071.11	21,034.09

NOTE: Because the values are rounded, there may be small errors.

Appendix 3: Preserve Location Maps

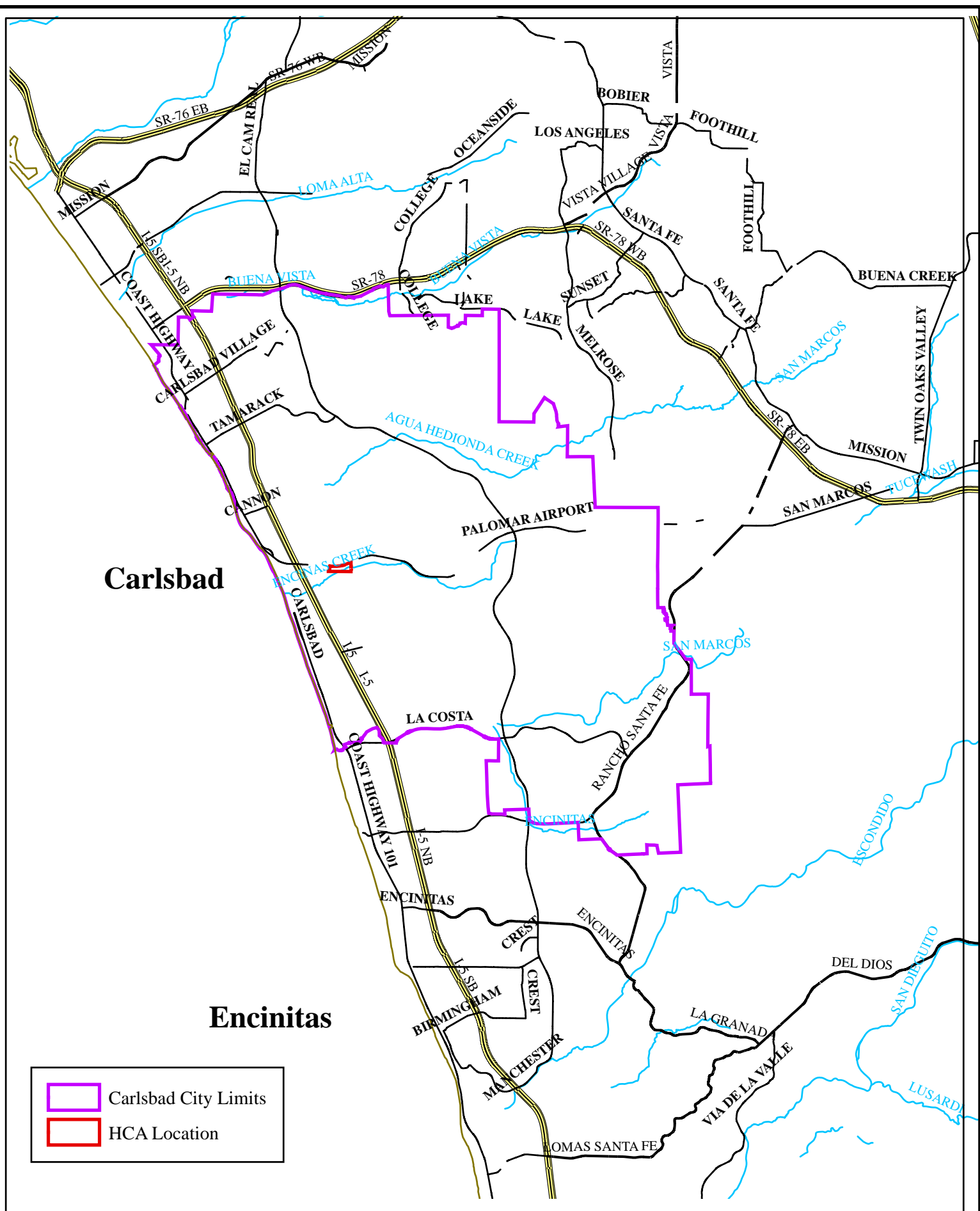


Figure 1. HCA Location

Encinas Creek (NCHB) HCA- City of Carlsbad, CA

3,800 1,900 0 3,800 Feet

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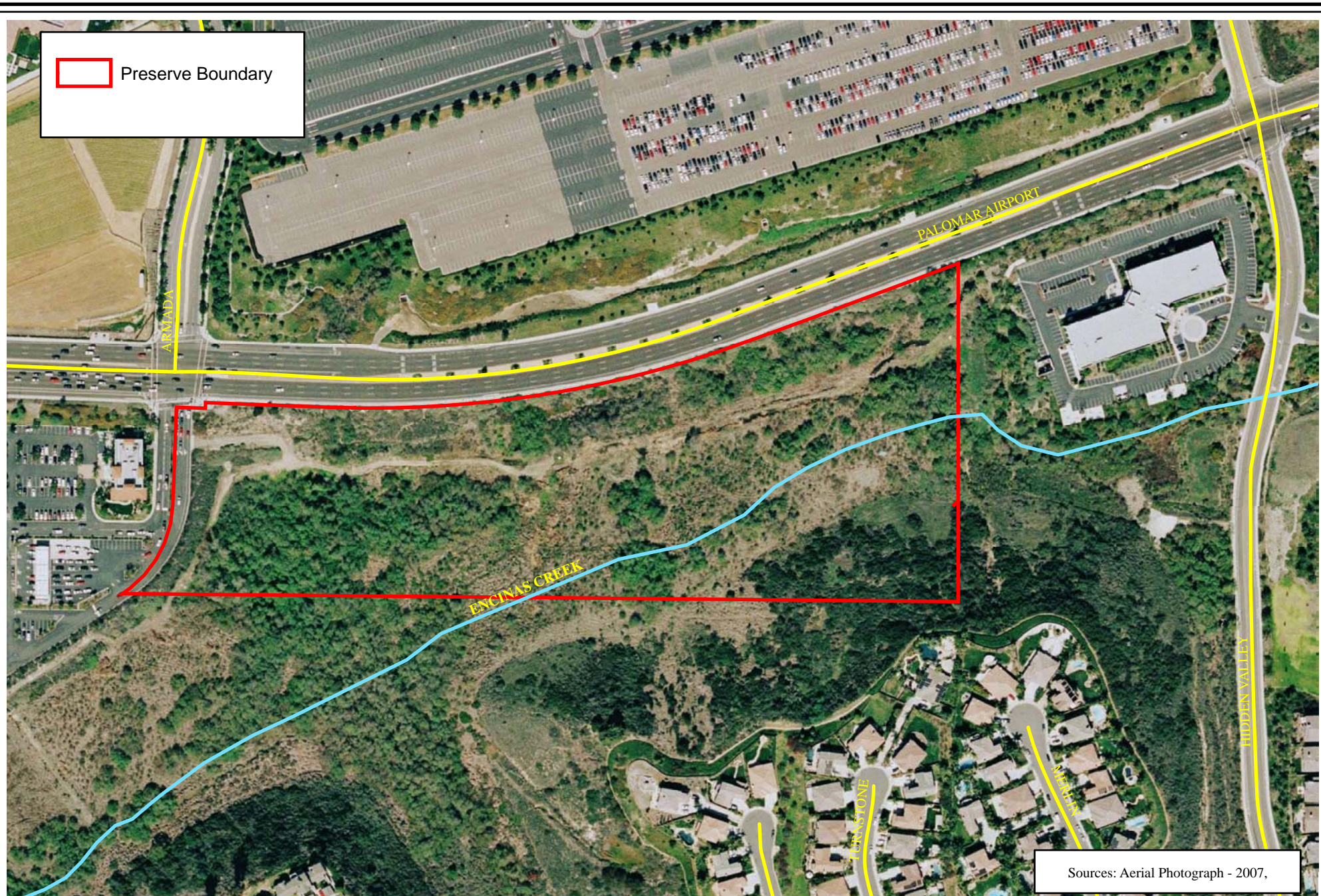


Figure 2
HCA Vicinity
Encinas Creek HCA (NCHB) - City of Carlsbad, California

110 55 0 110 Feet

Center for Natural Lands Management

